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5/20/03
PATENT
J. S. J. S.

Attorney Docket No. 0553-0246

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Koichiro Tanaka

Serial No.: 09/812,529

Filed: March 20, 2001

Examiner: R. Booth

Art Unit: 2812

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is
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Commissioner for Patents
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DATE: May 7, 2003

NAME: Kristine Callahan

SIGNATURE: *Kristine Callahan*

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicants hereby call the Examiner's attention to documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. Also, the citation of the above-discussed documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be

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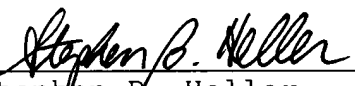
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construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicants also respectfully reserve the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of those documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the present patent application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a first Office Action. Accordingly, enclosed is the fee of \$180.00. If it is determined that any additional fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



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